

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Accidental Deaths in 1939

In California last year there were 6,092 deaths due to accidents, which represents almost 8 per cent of the total deaths from all causes registered last year—77,083. More than half of all accidental deaths occurred in individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 years. Of the total, there were but 408 deaths among individuals engaged in industrial occupations and 1,645 such deaths were due to accidents in the home. Motor vehicle deaths totaled 2,831 and public accidents, not due to motor vehicles, reached a total of 1,151. Of deaths in the occupational group, 65 occurred in agriculture, 68 in transportation and public utilities and 56 in the construction group.

Of deaths due to home accidents, 908 out of the total of 1,645 were in individuals 65 years of age and over, and 768 of these were due to deaths from falls in the home. There were 211 accidental deaths due to home accidents in children 4 years of age and younger. Of these 54 were due to conflagration, burns and explosions and 53 to mechanical suffocation.

Of deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, 1,036 were due to collisions with pedestrians and 871 to collisions with other motor vehicles. There were 523 motor vehicle deaths not due to collisions. It is interesting to note that 538 individuals between the ages of 25 and 64 were killed in collisions of motor vehicles with pedestrians, and 532 individuals in the same age group were killed in collisions between motor vehicles. Among individuals 65 years of age and over, 376 were

killed in accidents involving motor vehicles and pedestrians.

Of the 1,151 deaths due to public accidents, 293 were caused by drowning, which is a marked decrease over preceding years. There were 88 deaths due to accidents in water transportation and 59 due to accidents in air transportation. By age groups, deaths from drowning are distributed as follows: 4 years and under, 24; 5 to 14 years, 48; 15 to 24 years, 40; 25 to 64 years, 156; 65 years and over, 25. There were 57 accidental deaths registered last year in which it was impossible to determine the exact type of accident that caused the fatality.

In considering deaths due to accidents last year in California, it is interesting to note that deaths due to these causes rank high as a contributing factor in determining the trend of the state's mortality. More deaths in California last year were due to accidents than to any single cause except diseases of the circulatory system, 25,703; cancer, 9,652, and diseases of the nervous system, 6,931. There were but 3,906 deaths due to tuberculosis in all forms last year, as compared with 6,092 deaths due to accidental causes. Deaths from pneumonia were about half of the number due to accidents, and the numbers of deaths due to epidemic diseases was infinitesimal as compared to the numbers of deaths due to accidental causes. Deaths from typhoid fever, smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, influenza, dysen-

tery, epidemic poliomyelitis, encephalitis, and meningococcus meningitis totaled only 748 in 1939.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH SUMMARY FOR CALIFORNIA FOR YEAR 1939

Type of accident	All ages	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-64	65 and over
Occupational						
Agriculture	65	---	2	5	51	7
Mining and Quarrying	25	---	---	2	22	1
Other Extractive Industries	35	---	---	4	31	---
Manufacturing	16	---	---	2	14	---
Construction	56	---	---	3	51	2
Transportation and Public Utilities	68	---	---	3	62	3
Trade	96	---	---	3	89	4
Clerical and Professional Service	10	---	---	3	6	1
Other Occupational Accidents	37	---	1	6	27	3
Total	408	---	3	31	353	21
Home						
Poisonings (gas excepted)	98	18	1	4	67	8
Absorption of Poisonous Gas	58	1	---	3	43	11
Conflagration, Burns and Explosions	260	54	28	5	103	70
Mechanical Suffocation	56	53	1	---	2	---
Firearms	59	1	6	16	30	6
Falls	917	9	5	6	129	768
Other Home Accidents	197	75	18	7	52	45
Total	1,645	211	59	41	426	908
Public						
Motor Vehicle						
Collision with Pedestrian	1,036	36	44	42	538	376
Collision with other Motor Vehicle	871	22	26	200	532	91
Collision with Railroad Train	113	3	6	15	78	11
Collision with Electric Car	63	---	2	15	38	8
Collision with Bicycle	44	---	26	9	4	5
Collision with Horse Drawn Vehicle	2	---	---	---	2	---
Collision with Fixed Object	179	---	4	44	117	14
Noncollision	523	7	15	146	319	36
Total	2,831	68	123	471	1,628	541
Public Not Motor Vehicle						
Railroad—Not with Motor Vehicle	184	2	3	11	141	27
Street Car—Not with Motor Vehicle	56	2	3	4	21	26
Other Vehicle—Not with Motor Vehicle	9	---	4	1	3	1
Water Transportation	88	---	4	14	67	3
Air Transportation	59	---	---	12	47	---
Conflagration, Burns and Explosions	25	1	1	3	17	3
Drowning	293	24	48	40	156	25
Firearms	70	---	10	27	32	1
Falls—in Buildings	68	---	1	6	38	23
Falls—Not in Buildings or Unspecified	194	---	8	19	85	82
Other Public Accidents	105	8	9	15	58	15
Total	1,151	37	91	152	665	206
Type of Accident Unknown	57	---	1	3	38	15
Grand total	6,092	316	277	698	3,110	1,691

In addition to the 2831 motor vehicle deaths in public places, shown above, there were 16 fatalities involving motor vehicles in homes and work places, making a grand total of 2847 motor vehicle deaths.

DEFINITIONS

Occupational Accidents

This classification includes all accidents arising out of and in the course of gainful employment unless injured person was a domestic servant; or was operating, riding in, or struck by a land, air, or water vehicle. However, when such a vehicular accident occurs in a railroad shop or yards, or other industrial work place not open to the public, it remains in the occupational classification.

Home Accidents

This classification includes all accidents occurring wholly within domestic premises (within the building, lot or apartment lines of any domicile) except when the injured person was a gainfully employed person other than a domestic servant.

Public Accidents

This classification includes all accidents other than those described in columns 1 and 2. This group of public accidents is separated into two parts: (a) Motor Vehicle Accidents; (b) Public (not motor vehicle) Accidents. Motor vehicle accidents are accidents in public places involving a motor vehicle when used as a transportation agency, that is, when it is in motion or temporarily stopped in traffic or when receiving or discharging passengers or driver.

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS IN 1939

A study of the table of the deaths from all causes last year, by age groups, reveals the fact that large numbers of individuals are living to enter the advanced groups. In 1939 more than 10,000 of those who died in California were more than 80 years old. Deaths by age groups in 1939 are as follows: total, 77,083; under one year, 4,367; 1 to 4 years, 992; 5 to 9 years, 450; 10 to 14 years, 477; 15 to 19 years, 961; 20 to 24 years, 1,229; 25 to 29 years, 1,572; 30 to 34 years, 1,816; 35 to 39 years, 2,430; 40 to 44 years, 3,058; 45 to 49 years, 4,123; 50 to 54 years, 5,637; 55 to 59 years, 6,490; 60 to 64 years, 7,462; 65 to 69 years, 8,479; 70 to 74 years, 8,510; 75 to 79 years, 8,308; 80 to 84 years, 6,105; 85 to 89 years, 3,219; 90 to 94 years, 1,102; 95 to 99 years, 248; 100 to 104 years, 42; 105 to 109 years, 6; 110 to 120 years, 3.

Almost one-third of all deaths in California last year were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, 25,703 such diseases being registered out of a total of 77,083. Most deaths from this cause occurred in the 75 to 79 age group.

A study of deaths by principal causes, by age groups, emphasizes the fact that from 1 year to 39 years deaths from external causes, chiefly accidents, constitute the principal cause of death. Second in importance as a cause of deaths between the ages of 5 and 39 years is tuberculosis. Diseases of the diges-

tive system are of importance because of their large numbers between the ages of 5 and 34 years. Deaths from cancer are beginning to appear in the 20 to 24 age group, and deaths from diseases of the circulatory system constitute the third principal cause of death during the years 25 to 39. From 40 years to 100 years diseases of the heart and circulatory system are first in importance. External causes are the third most important cause of death between 45 and

54 years of age. Cancer is second in importance after 45 years of age, and diseases of the nervous system are of third importance as a cause of death between the ages of 55 and 74 years. Nephritis is third as a destroyer of individuals more than 80 years old.

The following table provides more detailed information relative to deaths by principal causes, by age groups, in California last year:

DEATHS BY PRINCIPAL CAUSES BY AGE GROUPS, 1939, CALIFORNIA

Age Group	Totals	1st Cause Early Infancy	2d Cause Diarrhea, Enteritis	3d Cause Pneumonia	4th Cause Malformation	5th Cause External
Under 1 year-----	4,367	2,206	552	535	484	106
1 to 4 years-----	992	<i>External</i> 219	<i>Pneumonia</i> 162	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 125	<i>Diarrhea, Enteritis</i> 84	<i>Digestive System</i> 53
5 to 9 years-----	450	<i>External</i> 129	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 50	<i>Digestive System</i> 43	<i>General</i> 39	<i>Pneumonia</i> 35
10 to 14 years-----	477	<i>External</i> 153	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 61	<i>General</i> 45	<i>Digestive System</i> 38	<i>Nervous System</i> 29
15 to 19 years-----	961	<i>External</i> 333	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 186	<i>Digestive System</i> 86	<i>General</i> 51	<i>Circulatory System</i> 48
20 to 24 years-----	1,229	<i>External</i> 423	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 260	<i>Digestive System</i> 71	<i>Circulatory System</i> 68	<i>Puerperal</i> 65
25 to 29 years-----	1,572	<i>External</i> 433	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 323	<i>Circulatory System</i> 122	<i>Digestive System</i> 91	<i>Puerperal</i> 70
30 to 34 years-----	1,816	<i>External</i> 413	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 334	<i>Circulatory System</i> 185	<i>Digestive System</i> 152	<i>Cancer</i> 118
35 to 39 years-----	2,430	<i>External</i> 444	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 372	<i>Circulatory System</i> 349	<i>Cancer</i> 275	<i>Digestive System</i> 207
40 to 44 years-----	3,050	<i>Circulatory System</i> 629	<i>External</i> 420	<i>Cancer</i> 379	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 334	<i>Digestive System</i> 287
45 to 49 years-----	4,123	<i>Circulatory System</i> 1,038	<i>Cancer</i> 635	<i>External</i> 438	<i>Tuberculosis</i> 378	<i>Digestive System</i> 376
50 to 54 years-----	5,637	<i>Circulatory System</i> 1,719	<i>Cancer</i> 968	<i>External</i> 451	<i>Nervous System</i> 428	<i>Digestive System</i> 472
55 to 59 years-----	6,496	<i>Circulatory System</i> 2,158	<i>Cancer</i> 1,183	<i>Nervous System</i> 551	<i>Digestive System</i> 497	<i>Nephritis</i> 417
60 to 64 years-----	7,462	<i>Circulatory System</i> 2,842	<i>Cancer</i> 1,274	<i>Nervous System</i> 744	<i>Nephritis</i> 500	<i>Digestive System</i> 442
65 to 69 years-----	8,479	<i>Circulatory System</i> 3,415	<i>Cancer</i> 1,367	<i>Nervous System</i> 957	<i>Nephritis</i> 601	<i>General</i> 418
70 to 74 years-----	8,501	<i>Circulatory System</i> 3,739	<i>Cancer</i> 1,288	<i>Nervous System</i> 997	<i>Nephritis</i> 608	<i>External</i> 361
75 to 79 years-----	8,308	<i>Circulatory System</i> 3,930	<i>Nervous System</i> 1,083	<i>Cancer</i> 1,055	<i>Nephritis</i> 651	<i>External</i> 348
80 to 84 years-----	6,105	<i>Circulatory System</i> 3,010	<i>Nervous System</i> 754	<i>Nephritis</i> 565	<i>Cancer</i> 564	<i>External</i> 321
85 to 89 years-----	3,219	<i>Circulatory System</i> 1,670	<i>Nervous System</i> 373	<i>Nephritis</i> 290	<i>Cancer</i> 269	<i>External</i> 197
90 to 94 years-----	1,102	<i>Circulatory System</i> 589	<i>Nervous System</i> 128	<i>Nephritis</i> 87	<i>External</i> 74	<i>Cancer</i> 57
95 to 99 years-----	248	<i>Circulatory System</i> 135	<i>External</i> 23	<i>Nephritis</i> 19	<i>Nervous System</i> 20	<i>Senility</i> 9
Grand total-----						77,083

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending April 27, 1940

Chickenpox

576 cases: Alameda County 6, Alameda 13, Berkeley 3, Oakland 33, San Leandro 6, Oroville 3, Contra Costa County 2, Fresno County 9, Coalinga 1, Fresno 9, Kern County 7, Delano 1, Kings County 10, Hanford 6, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 63, Alhambra 13, Burbank 1, Claremont 2, Compton 5, Culver City 5, El Monte 1, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 78, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, Redondo 9, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 3, South Pasadena 3, Torrance 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 3, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 1, Madera County 1, Madera 2, Merced County 2, Monterey County 5, Carmel 1, King City 1, Salinas 1, Grass Valley 24, Orange County 11, Plumas County 2, Riverside County 1, Blythe 7, Riverside 5, Sacramento 7, San Diego County 12, Coronado 1, Escondido 1, La Mesa 1, San Diego 11, San Francisco 53, San Joaquin County 10, Lodi 1, Stockton 5, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 5, San Mateo County 7, San Bruno 7, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 3, Palo Alto 4, San Jose 10, Sunnyvale 2, Solano County 1, Vacaville 1, Sonoma County 5, Petaluma 4, Santa Rosa 1, Sutter County 2, Tulare County 15, Santa Paula 5, Yolo County 4, Marysville 1.

Diphtheria

13 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 1, Signal Hill 1, Riverside County 1, Colton 2, National City 1, Oceanside 1, San Francisco 2, San Jose 2, Sutter County 1.

German Measles

20 cases: El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 1, Kern County 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 3, Madera 1, Santa Ana 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 1, San Jose 1, Exeter 2, California 1.*

Influenza

79 cases: Berkeley 2, Los Angeles County 4, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 15, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Gardena 1, Mendocino County 1, Hollister 48, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 1, Corning 1.

Malaria

One case: Los Angeles.

Measles

473 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 4, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 25, Fresno 2, Imperial County 6, Calexico 3, El Centro 7, Imperial 11, Kern County 64, Bakersfield 19, Delano 1, Kings County 4, Hanford 2, Susanville 4, Los Angeles County 6, Alhambra 2, Claremont 1, Glendale 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 29, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 11, Madera 4, Mendocino County 1, Modoc County 4, Alturas 2, Salinas 1, Nevada County 1, Orange County 5, Santa Ana 9, Placer County 5, Auburn 3, Lincoln 3, Indio 1, Sacramento 13, Hollister 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 42, Escondido 7, La Mesa 1, National City 2, San Diego 61, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 19, Stockton 8, Lodi 6, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Clara County 4, Palo Alto 1, Siskiyou County 28, Duns-muir 1, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 1, Turlock 1, Trinity County 1, Tulare County 7, Exeter 1, Santa Paula 8, Yolo County 1.

Mumps

580 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 5, Berkeley 2, Oakland 8, San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Fresno County 33, Clovis 10, Coalinga 1, Fresno 1, Eureka 1, Imperial County 3, Kern County 20, Bakersfield 5, Delano 2, Kings County 34, Hanford 14, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 72, Alhambra 1, Burbank 2, Compton 3, Glendale 32, Long Beach 36, Los Angeles 20, Pasadena 3, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, Whittier 1, Signal Hill 1, Madera County 1, Madera 1, Mendocino County 2, Napa County 2, Orange County 45, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 6, Orange 2, Santa Ana 5, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 3, Indio 2, Riverside 15, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 14, San Francisco 57, San Joaquin County 9, Manteca 8, Stockton 8, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 12, San Mateo County 5, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 1, San Carlos 1, Menlo Park 6, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 9, San Jose 2, Siskiyou County 10, Solano County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 13, Marysville 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

51 cases: Oakland 4, Brawley 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 11, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 19, Santa Monica 1, Lynwood 1, Maywood 1, Bell 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, Colton 1, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 2, Ventura County 2.

Scarlet Fever

151 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 4, San Leandro 1, Colusa County 4, Fresno County 1, Fresno 4, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 2, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 20, Alhambra 1, Culver City 1, El Segundo 1, Hermosa 1, Inglewood 2, Los Angeles 26, Monrovia 3, Santa Monica 1, Sierra

Madre 2, Maywood 1, Madera County 2, Mendocino County 5, Alturas 1, Monterey County 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 5, Plumas County 3, Riverside County 11, Corona 8, Palm Springs 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 3, Ontario 2, Redlands 1, San Diego County 5, National City 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 3, Santa Cruz 1, Exeter 1, Ventura County 1, Winters 1, Marysville 2.

Smallpox

9 cases: Butte County 5, Chico 3, Vernon 1.

Typhoid Fever

5 cases: El Centro 3, Los Angeles 1, California 1.*

Whooping Cough

473 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Hayward 2, Oakland 10, Fresno County 8, Coalinga 2, Fresno 11, Sanger 1, Humboldt County 2, Kern County 23, Bakersfield 4, Kings County 9, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 43, Alhambra 2, Avalon 15, Burbank 2, Compton 4, El Segundo 1, La Verne 4, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 61, Montebello 2, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 5, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 4, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Bell 8, Madera 2, Merced County 8, Monterey County 8, Orange County 3, Anaheim 8, Placentia 1, Riverside County 5, Corona 8, Elsinore 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 28, San Bernardino County 9, Ontario 2, San Bernardino 1, Escondido 2, San Diego 7, San Francisco 21, San Joaquin County 7, Lodi 2, Stockton 2, Tracy 7, Paso Robles 2, San Mateo County 2, Daly City 4, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 12, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 9, San Jose 26, Santa Cruz County 5, Watsonville 4, Siskiyou County 2, Sonoma County 1, Petaluma 1, Santa Rosa 3, Modesto 4, Tulare County 1, Lindsay 9, Woodlake 4, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 3, Woodland 1, Marysville 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

One case: Ontario.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

6 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 5.

Pellagra

One case: Los Angeles County.

Poliomyelitis

4 cases: Butte County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles 1, Tulare County 1.

Tetanus

4 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, San Diego County 1.

Trachoma

5 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 1, Riverside 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: Sacramento.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

One case: Modoc County.

Trichinosis

One case: Alameda County.

Food Poisoning

12 cases: Los Angeles 8, San Joaquin County 4.

Undulant Fever

8 cases: Imperial County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Ventura County 1.

Epilepsy

29 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 6, Alhambra 1, La Verne 1, Los Angeles 15, San Gabriel 1, San Jose 1.

Rabies (Animal)

10 cases: Berkeley 1, Fresno County 4, Imperial 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 2, Redwood City 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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